

# TOWN OF IPSWICH UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



272 HIGH STREET • IPSWICH, MA 01938 • (978) 356-6635 • FAX: (978) 356-6634

## **Fall Water Main Flushing September 21 - September 30, 2021**

### **What is happening?**

The Ipswich Water Department will be conducting a limited Fall Water Main Flushing Program in targeted areas of town beginning September 21, 2021 and continuing through September 30, 2021. Flushing of water mains will be conducted between the hours of 8 PM –12. Water mains will be flushed by releasing water from select hydrants in town.

### **What are the benefits of flushing mains?**

Water main flushing is an effective method of improving drinking water quality and is an integral component of a water utility's distribution maintenance program.

### **Are there any short term adverse impacts from water main flushing?**

Water main flushing can cause temporary reductions in water pressure and discolored water from increased levels of dissolved iron. Discolored water due to increased levels of dissolved iron may not be aesthetically pleasing, but according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is not a public health threat. The Ipswich Water Department is making every effort to minimize potential impacts from the program and will closely monitor water quality and water pressure while flushing mains.

### **Should Ipswich Water Customers take special precautions?**

In general, Ipswich Water Customers do not have to take any special precautions. However, some customers, such as hospital and medical facilities, and businesses that use water in their manufacturing or cleaning process, may want to more closely monitor their water quality and water pressure while the Ipswich Water Department flushing program is underway.

As a precaution, avoid using the dishwasher, washing machine, and faucets (hot and cold) during flushing activities. Flushing occurs between 8:00 PM and 12:00 AM, so check your tap by running cold water in the morning. If the water is discolored or cloudy, try running the cold water at full pressure for several minutes (up to 15) until the water runs clear. Check the faucet screens for trapped particles, and consider washing a load or two of dark-colored clothes before washing light-colored clothes.

### **Who can I contact for more information?**

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Water Main Flushing Program please contact the Ipswich Utilities Office at 978-356-6635.